

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Lawrence B. KOOL et al.
Serial No.	09/771,186
Filing Date	January 29, 2001
For	A METHOD FOR REMOVING OXIDES AND COATINGS FROM A SUBSTRATE
Examiner	BiBi Sharidan Carrillo
Art Unit	1746

#15
AS
7/29/03
RECEIVED
JUL 22 2003
TC 1700

Mail Stop Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

37 C.F.R. § 1.132 AFFIDAVIT

In the Office Action of May 9, 2003, claims 1-3, 6, 9-26 and 34 of the present invention were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LaGraff (US Pat # 6,420,178).

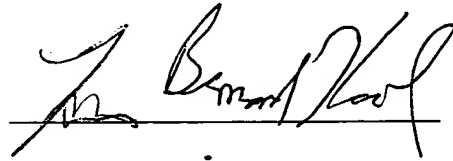
The inventorship in LaGraff is: John Robert LaGraff, Xiao-Dong Sun, James Anthony Ruud, and James Claude Carnahan. The inventorship in the present application is: Lawrence Bernard Kool and James Anthony Ruud. The inventions claimed in claims 1-3, 6, 9-26 and 34 of this present invention comprise inventions derived by the inventors of this present invention, not inventions derived by the inventors of LaGraff. }

Furthermore, both LaGraff and the present application have a common assignee (General Electric Company). The assignment of the LaGraff invention to General Electric Company was recorded on 09/20/2000 at Reel/Frame: 011155/0321. The assignment of this

present invention to General Electric Company was recorded on 01/29/2001 at Reel/Frame:
011498/0360. As such, LaGraff is not an invention "by another."

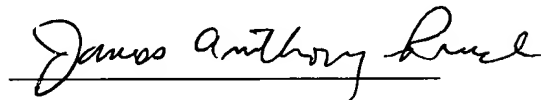
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Bernard Kool", written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence Bernard Kool
Applicant # 1

Date: 6-27-2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James Anthony Ruud", written over a horizontal line.

James Anthony Ruud
Applicant # 2